

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT PETER GROSE PAGE TWO BY-LINER NEW YORK TIMES FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17 HEADED "CARTER'S CHINA ADVISE OUTLINES NEW POLICY ON PEKING REGIME."
2. THE DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG HAS GIVEN SUDDEN URGENCY TO A DEBAT IN THE RANKS OF THIS COUNTRY'S CHINA EXPERTS ABOUT HOW THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PROCEED IN ATTEMPTING TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH PEKING.
3. AMONG GOVERNMENT POLICY PLANNERS AND WIDER CIRCLES OF SCHOLARS AND "THINK TANK" SPECIALISTS WHO OFTEN CONSULT WITH OFFICIAL POLICYMAKERS, TWO SPECIFIC ISSUES ARE UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY: THE SEARCH FOR A WORKABLE FORMULA TO RECONCILE THIS COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN AFTER SOME FUTURE RECOGNITION MILITARY COOPERATION WITH PEKING, THROUGH SALES OF STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY OR EVEN MILITARY MATERIAL.
4. THE LATEST FORMAL ENTRY INTO THE DEBATE IS A PAPER PREPARED BY A HAVARD LAW PROFESSOR, JEROME A. COHEN, CONTAINED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS QUARTELY, PUBLISHED UNCLASSIFIED

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TODAY, ENTITLED "A CHINA POLICY FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION."

5. MR. COHEN HAS BEEN A CONSULTANT ON CHINA POLICY TO THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, JIMMY CARTER, THOUGH THE AUTHOR STRESSED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THERE WAS NO CLAIM THAT MR. CARTER CONCURRED IN THE POLICY PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD IN THE ARTICLE. THE PAPER WAS WRITTEN BEFORE MAO'S DEATH LAST WEEK, BUT ITS BASIC ARGUMENTS HOLD.

6. MR. COHEN BELIEVES THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN DEVISE A "NEW TYPE OF GUARANTY" FOR TAIWAN TO REPLACE THE FORMAL SECURITY PACT THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE INVALIDATED BY GIVING DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO PEKING. CHINESE AUTHORITIES INSTST THAT THEY HAVE THE "RIGHT" TO USE FORCE IN REUNIFYING TAIWAN WITH THE MAINLAND, YET THEY ALSO GIVE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF FOING SO.

7. ONE WAY OF SKIRTING THIS DILIMMA, MR. COHEN SUGGESTS, MIGHT BE "A SINO-AMERICAN AGREEMENT DECLARING THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND AIRSPACE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND MAINLAND CHINA A BILATERAL ZONE OF PEACE AND BINDING THE TWO SIDES NOT TO RESORT TO FORCE IN THIS INTERNATIONAL AREA, BUT WITHOUT SPELLING OUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS MOVE FOR TAIWAN.

8. SINCE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND ELECTORATE WOULD INSIST ON REITERATING A LONGSTANDING INTEREST IN TAIWAN'S SECURITY, MR. COHEN ADVOCATES A "SOLEMN POLICY DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENT" CONVEYING A NOTIONAL COMMITMENT, POSSIBLY STRENGTHENED BY A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION "AUTHORIZING IN ADVANCE ANY ACTION IN DEFENSE OF TAIWAN THAT MIGHT, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT, PROVE NECESSARY" HE SUGGESTS CONTINUING MILITARY SALES TO TAIWAN THROUGH PRIVAT AUSPICES.

9. THESE PROPOSALS ARE MORE FORTHCOMING TOWARD THE TAIWAN REGIME THAN MANY AMERICAN SCHOLARS, SUCH AS ALLEN S. WHITTING, A FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL NOW ON THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, BELIEVE NECESSARY. MR. COHEN ARGUED, HOWEVER, THAT TAIWAN ENJOYED CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT IN THIS COUNTRY, WHICH NO RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL LEADER SHOULD UNDER-ESTIMATE.

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10. THE PROPOSALS FOR A CAUTIOUS FORM OF MILITARY COOPERATION WITH PEKING, IN PART TO COMPENSATE FOR THE PRESENT OVERWHELMING SUPERIORITY OF SOVIET MILITARY MIGHT, ARE EVEN MORE CONTROVERSIAL. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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